

Women's Health Ebrief 2015

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[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) works 24/7 to protect the health of Americans through a wide range of activities that prevent illness, injury, and disability, and promote wellness through every stage of life. As our nation's health protection agency, the CDC tracks diseases, investigates outbreaks, develops evidence-based strategies, works with partners, and responds to emergencies of all kinds. Whether at home or abroad, about chronic or acute diseases that are curable, incurable, or preventable, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same. Many of CDC's programs and activities focus on issues that impact [women's health and safety](#). This e-brief summarizes select CDC contributions to advance the health and safety of women in 2014.

Recent CDC Guidance

Guidance for Screening and Caring for Pregnant Women with Ebola Virus Disease for Healthcare Providers in U.S. Hospitals

[This guidance](#) is intended to help U.S. hospitals develop a plan for screening and treating pregnant women with known or suspected Ebola virus disease (Ebola) and includes considerations for pregnant healthcare workers.

National Public Health Action Plan for the Detection, Prevention and Management of Infertility

In consultation with governmental and nongovernmental partners and in response to interest from Congress and stakeholders, the CDC developed this [action plan](#) highlighting the need to better understand and address issues at the population level that contribute to, and are caused by infertility in women and men and that may affect the health of a pregnancy. The plan focuses on promoting health behaviors that can help maintain and preserve fertility; promoting prevention, early detection, and treatment of medical conditions that can threaten fertility; and, reducing exposures to environmental, occupational, infectious, and iatrogenic agents that can threaten fertility.



Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Activity

The CDC collaborated with external partners to develop [Special Considerations for Treatment of Anthrax in Pregnant and Postpartum Women](#). It provides guidance to health care providers and public health professionals for anthrax prophylaxis and



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treatment for pregnant and postpartum women.

Providing Quality Family Planning Services: Recommendations of CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs

A recent report in CDC's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) provides recommendations on how to provide family planning services. Such services include contraceptive services, pregnancy testing and counseling, helping clients achieve pregnancy, basic infertility services, preconception health services, and sexually transmitted disease service.

Education Campaigns

Know:BRCA

The [Know:BRCA education initiative](#) aims to build awareness about how BRCA gene mutations affect risk for breast and ovarian cancer. Without treatment, women with a BRCA gene mutation are seven times more likely to get breast cancer and 30 times more likely to get ovarian cancer before age 70 than other women.

The Burning Truth

The CDC launched a new [communications campaign](#) encouraging women to keep skin healthy by protecting it from overexposure to Ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun and tanning beds. [Skin cancer](#) is the most common cancer in the U.S. and melanoma is the second most common cancer in women between 20 and 29 years old.

We Can Stop HIV One Conversation at a Time

This [new national HIV and AIDS awareness campaign](#) is a call to action for the Hispanic/Latino community to talk about HIV and AIDS, increase HIV and AIDS awareness, and decrease HIV-associated stigma and shame. At the end of 2010, one in four people living with HIV in the United States were women. Hispanic/Latino women accounted for an estimated [15% of estimated new cases](#) among women that year.

Selected CDC Publications

Fifty Years of Tobacco Use Prevention

[“The Health Consequences of Smoking – Fifty Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General”](#) was released in January, 2014, and includes updated and new data specific to women on smoking trends, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, reproductive outcomes, and breast cancer.

“Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization – National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States”

This report, released in September, 2014, examines National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey ([NISVS](#)) data gathered in 2011 on experiences of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization among adult women and men in the United States. For intimate partner violence, the report also examines a range of negative impacts experienced as a result of victimization, including the need for services.

Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence and HIV in Women

This eight-page [fact sheet for health professionals and researchers](#) discusses the links between the two issues, study findings, and addresses what's being done.





Treating for Two

CDC's [Treating for Two: Safer Medication Use in Pregnancy](#) initiative aims to prevent birth defects and improve the health of mothers by working to identify the best alternatives for treatment of common conditions during pregnancy and during the childbearing years. An article summarizing a 2013 expert meeting held by CDC to discuss best methods for evaluating the safety of medications used to manage health conditions during pregnancy was recently published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Program Updates and Funding

CHOICES: A Program for Women about Choosing Health Behaviors

This evidence-based program for non-pregnant women was designed to reduce their risk for an alcohol-exposed pregnancy by reducing alcohol use, using effective contraception, or changing both behaviors. The program is currently in use in two American Indian and Native Alaskan populations and has been added to SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices. [CHOICES](#) will be piloted in other populations in 2015 and web-based training for interventionists is currently underway.

Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program (MCHEP)

This year, the long standing [MCHEP](#) program placed thirteen Maternal and Child Health epidemiologists in thirteen states, and eleven Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist Fellows in eleven states, with the purpose of promoting analytic capabilities and increasing the ability of public health agencies to apply scientific research evidence. This program supports diverse training opportunities through year-long training courses at training institutes, professional continuing education, short courses, and professional conferences in partnership with the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Increasing Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Coverage among Adolescents

Spanning a 15-month project period between 2013 and 2015, 22 immunization program awardees are conducting activities to develop joint initiatives with stakeholders; implement communication campaigns; institutionalize the Immunization Information System (IIS); evaluate immunization providers' performance; and, improve providers' adherence to current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for HPV vaccination of adolescents. Special attention is given to reaching parents of adolescents between the ages of 11 and 18 years who may be eligible for the federal Vaccines for Children Program. Two Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs) were published in [July](#) and [August](#), 2014 which served as updates to existing CDC HPV vaccination recommendations.

Improving Sexual Health

Girls and women are at disproportionate risk for nearly all sexually related diseases as well as the negative consequences of having children before physical and cognitive maturity. Through a five-year cooperative agreement (FY 2013–2018), CDC supports [19 states and 17 district education agencies](#) to prevent STDs and teen pregnancy by improving sexual health education programs and increasing access to sexual health services recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force.

Social Support for Breastfeeding

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) was awarded funding in 2014 to provide resources and support to 70 community-based organizations or local health departments serving low-income or minority populations to implement or improve activities that support mothers in continuing to breastfeed after hospital discharge. Programming is forecasted to launch in December, 2014 and will run through May, 2016.

Data Trends and Selected Research

[Vital Signs: Cervical Cancer Incidence, Mortality, and Screening - United States, 2007-2012](#)

In 2012, the percentage of women who had not been screened for cervical cancer in the past 5 years was estimated to be 11.4%. The proportion of inadequately screened women is higher among older women, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaska Natives.

ATSDR Study Suggests Women's Exposures to Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune Might Be Associated with Adverse Birth Outcomes

According to [a recent study from ATSDR](#), women who were pregnant and were exposed to the contaminated drinking water between 1968 and 1985 were more likely to have increased risk of pre-term birth or children with forms of fetal growth retardation.

Tdap Vaccine During Pregnancy

In 2014, CDC conducted research with obstetric providers and pregnant women on barriers and motivators to administering and receiving the Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular Pertussis vaccine (Tdap). This research will inform campaigns to promote [Tdap during pregnancy](#). Recommendations to protect infants from Pertussis (whooping cough) currently include the administration of the Tdap vaccine to women during every pregnancy, encouraging close contacts of infants to be up-to-date with pertussis vaccine, and vaccinating infants with Pediatric-Diphtheria-Tetanus-acellular Pertussis (DTap) according to the childhood immunization schedule.

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

CDC supports the [Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System](#) (PRAMS) across [40 states and New York City](#) to collect state-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. In 2014, the first descriptive, [state-level summary](#) of core state preconception health indicators available in PRAMS and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data was released. It provided prevalence estimates overall, stratified by age group and race/ethnicity.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology Surveillance

This [new release from CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#) presents state-specific data on assisted reproductive technology (ART) use and outcomes. The report compares ART infant outcome data with outcomes for all infants born in the U.S. in 2011, and provides data on the contributions of ART to total infants born, multiple birth infants, low birth weight infants, and preterm infants for each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Twenty Years for Women's Health

Millions of Underserved Women in the US have Benefitted from CDC's Breast and Cervical Screening Program

More than 4.3 million women with limited access to health care received [breast and cervical cancer screening](#) and diagnostic services in the first 20 years of the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

CDC Office of Women's Health Celebrates Twenty Years

CDC's [Office of Women's Health](#) started in 2004 to ensure that women's health issues were addressed among CDC's wide-ranging prevention efforts. Twenty years later, it continues to work to advance women's health and safety across the lifespan.

